

**Virginia Board of Conservation and Recreation
Longwood University, Farmville, Virginia
April 28, 2009**

Board of Conservation and Recreation Members Present

Mark E. Smith, Chair
Linda Crandell
Sheryl D. Swinson
David Watts

Joy Antoinette Cooley
Richard Formato
Jennifer C. Wagner
W. Bruce Wingo

Board of Conservation and Recreation Members Not Present

Alan D. Albert
Stephen Murray

Gwen Mason

DCR Staff Present

Joseph H. Maroon, Director
David C. Dowling
Joseph Elton
Michael R. Fletcher
Robert Munson
Thomas Smith
Synthia Waymack

Others Present

Ken Copeland, Longwood Real Estate Foundation

Call to Order

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests. He noted that there was an optional tour of High Bridge State Park following the meeting.

Mr. Smith said that Gerry Connolly had resigned from the Board upon this election to Congress. He noted that there was still a vacancy on the Board due to the passing of Carter Nettles. Mr. Smith said that he was delighted to announce that the Governor had appointed Bruce Wingo to fill Mr. Connolly's term. Mr. Wingo was both a former Board member and former chairman of the Board.

Mr. Smith said that Ms. Swinson and Mr. Albert's terms were both expiring. He noted that both were eligible for reappointment.

Longwood Foundation Remarks

Mr. Smith introduced Ken Copeland with the Longwood Real Estate Foundation.

Mr. Copeland welcomed the Board to Farmville. He said that he was Longwood's Director of Economic Development and also the Executive Director of the Real Estate Foundation.

Mr. Copeland said that the Foundation's primary objective was to assist the University with growth, primarily in the need for student housing. The Foundation has bought or built nearly 1,000 apartment style beds since 2005.

Mr. Copeland said that the Foundation had been in talks regarding the possibility of building a bridge from the Lancer Park property over the High Bridge Trail State park for alternate vehicular entry and pedestrian access.

Mr. Copeland reviewed the plans for the bridge at Lancer Park. He said the total project cost was about \$3.2 million. He noted that Lancer Park is owned by the Foundation but operated by the University.

Mr. Elton said that one of the benefits to the Commonwealth is taking the traffic off of a major road crossing the trail which would enhance the safety of the trail. He said there would still be commercial traffic but that it would relieve a lot of the residential traffic.

Mr. Copeland thanked the Board and DCR for the partnership with the University and the Foundation.

Approval of Minutes from November 14, 2008

MOTION: Ms. Crandell moved that the minutes of the November 14, 2008 meeting of the Board of Conservation and Recreation be approved as submitted.

SECOND: Ms. Swinson

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

Director's Report

Mr. Maroon gave the Director's report.

Mr. Maroon said that on behalf of the Department he also wanted to welcome Mr. Wingo back to the Board. He noted that Mr. Wingo has been a long time advocate for the Department and State Parks. He noted also that Mr. Wingo had been instrumental in the acquisition of the High Bridge property.

Mr. Maroon said that Governor Kaine had proclaimed 2009 as the Year of the Environment and Energy. This is one of the Governor's four initiatives. He noted that the timing, with regard to funding was not the best. Governor Kaine also appeared for the second time at the Environment Virginia Conference in April at VMI. The Governor was at the conference in April of 2006 where he announced his aggressive land conservation goal.

Mr. Maroon said that there remains a lot of interest in the environment. He said that a recent poll from the Center for Public Policy at Christopher Newport University indicated that Virginia's were pessimistic about the future of the state's environment. The health of Chesapeake Bay and mountain top removal for coal were identified as the top concerns.

Mr. Maroon said that regarding the Governor's land conservation goal, with about seven months remaining in his administration, there were about 70,000 acres remaining in the 400,000 acre goal.

Mr. Maroon noted that in May of 2008 the Board participated in a ceremony marking the closing of the Phase I acquisition of the Crow's Nest property in Stafford County. He said that he was pleased to announce that DCR will be able to finalize the deed and grant requirements for the acquisition of Phase II by the end of July. This will result in close to 3,000 acres being protected on the peninsula.

Mr. Maroon said that DCR also closed on the 57th Natural Area Preserve. Cypress Bridge is 380 acres along the Nottoway River. The property includes some of the largest trees in Virginia including what was the previous record holder for Virginia's largest tree. This was a Bald Cypress referred to as "Big Momma." The tree has recently died of natural causes, but should remain standing for a long time to come. The property was purchased through a combination of bond money and a grant from an anonymous private donor. It is believed that some of the cypress trees are more than 1,000 years old.

Mr. Maroon said that the Board had committed to work with DCR to showcase a number of natural area preserves. One of those to highlight would be Crow's Nest. The intent would be to possibly open the area for a weekend and allow the public to go on the site. More details will be forwarded to the Board as they are available.

Mr. Maroon said that on Saturday, June 6, DCR would be opening an additional 20 miles of High Bridge State Park. This is in conjunction with National Trails Day.

Mr. Elton said that the Friends of High Bridge State Park had been very involved. He said there was a 50 state effort to celebrate National Trails Day. In Virginia various user

groups, including saddle clubs, hiking groups, mountain biking groups and the Appomattox River Company were involved in the planning for the event.

Mr. Maroon noted that the Board had discussed Grand Caverns at the last meeting. He said that regional interests have hoped that the Commonwealth would assume the management for the cavern. He said that nothing had transpired to date. He noted that assuming responsibility for the cavern would mean an immediate responsibility and liability for a property that is in great need of repair. He said that DCR has been advising and recommending that the Commonwealth not assume ownership until the necessary funding for renovations was available. He said that some private cavern and campground owners are not in favor of the Commonwealth assuming ownership.

Mr. Wingo asked who presently owned the caverns.

Mr. Maroon said the caverns are owned by a regional park authority. The initial request had asked that DCR also acquire Natural Chimneys, but the Commonwealth declined to pursue that.

Mr. Maroon said that plans for a marina project at Occoneechee State Park were coming together. This will be a big addition to the park as well as a boost for the region. Mr. Maroon noted that the land at Occoneechee State Park was owned by the Army Corps of Engineers, but managed by DCR. He said that the Corps has a role in the final approval of any project.

Mr. Maroon said that DCR held an initial meeting with stakeholders to develop a portion of the Captain John Smith Water Trail along the Rappahannock River. This will join the sections completed on the James and York Rivers.

Mr. Munson said that the Rappahannock section of the Captain John Smith Water Trail will begin at Fredericksburg and go downstream to the river's mouth. That portion of the river will be divided into three or four segments with each section having a map series. There will be a driving route as well as a water trail route.

Mr. Maroon said that the Board had also discussed state park regulations at the previous meeting. He said that, at the Board's suggestion, staff is moving ahead with the non-controversial changes. Mr. Dowling, Mr. Elton and Mr. Wahl are working to finalize those changes. They will be advanced on the fast track process and should be filed in the next several months.

Mr. Maroon said that the issue of open carry of firearms in state parks had also been discussed. The Attorney General's opinion was that DCR should move forward to change the regulation. However, the Governor directed DCR not to change the regulations. A copy of the Governor's letter was provided to members and is available from DCR.

Mr. Maroon provided members with a CD containing the revised Board Member Manual.

State Park Master Plan Review and Amendments

Mr. Munson presented the State Park Master Plan review. He said that the Code of Virginia requires a master plan for each state park. He said that the Code also requires that the plan be revisited very five years.

Mr. Munson said that DCR, through acquisition money, had acquired several inholdings and adjacent parcels to parks which also resulted in a need to revisit the Master Plans for those parks.

Kiptopeke State Park

Mr. Munson presented the update for Kiptopeke State Park.

The master plan for Kiptopeke State Park was adopted on March 6, 2001. Since the adoption of the master plan, some items have been completed, while some additions and changes to the plan are recommended.

Projects that have been completed are:

- Construction of three 6-bedroom lodges.
- Construction of 3.4 miles of trail.

After operating within the existing master plan for seven years, it became apparent that some changes could be made that would enhance the operations of the park and better meet public expectations and needs.

Mr. Munson said that the following were recommended to be addressed in the amended master plan:

- Due to the characteristics of litoral drift along the shoreline, the boat launch facility is being silted in. It is anticipated that a re-engineering of the beach breakwater could help to reduce sand retention at the boat launch.
- The concrete ships which form the protected harbor for the Kiptopeke landing are slowly eroding and sinking into the sea floor. DCR needs to find a way to work with others to stabilize and reinforce the off-shore concrete ship breakwater.
- Four housing units for staff should be constructed.
- The park entrance should be redesigned (in conjunction with VDOT) for improved safety and ease of access.
- In the original master plan, six 6-bedroom lodges were proposed. Staff recommends dropping three of these lodges and replacing them with six 2 or 3-bedroom cabins.
- Campground 2 should be upgraded and additional yurts acquired.
- The bathhouse in Campground 1 should be renovated.
- A storage facility should be constructed in the current maintenance area.

- The scope of the Bird Observatory should be enhanced and the project developed.
- Playground equipment should be installed in the day-use area.
- Northampton County is developing a bicycle and pedestrian trail on the abandoned rail line across the road from the park. A safe crossing of Route 13 needs to be secured to connect the park into the Northampton Bike Trail.

On March 23, 2009 a public input meeting was held at the Kiptopeke Elementary School to inform the public about proposed changes to the master plan and to solicit public input. The meeting was well attended and the proposed changes were supported as presented.

Mr. Munson said that, in accordance with § 10.1-200.1 et seq., staff requested that the Board recommend approval of these amendments.

Mr. Watts asked if funding was available for new construction.

Mr. Munson said that each master plan is prepared in phases. The plans are developed with the contingency that they will be advanced as funds are available.

Mr. Elton said that the master plan was necessary before approaching DPB or the General Assembly with funding requests.

Mr. Smith noted that state agencies will likely get budget instructions in July. Discussions with the Governor's staff will take place in August and September.

Mr. Dowling noted that the master plan process also feeds into DCR's 6-year capital planning process.

Mr. Maroon noted that the master plans give the appropriate boundaries in which the agency can work.

MOTION: Mr. Wingo moved that the Board of Conservation and Recreation recommend that the Director approve the Master Plan Amendment for Kiptopeke State Park as presented by staff.

SECOND: Mr. Formato

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

Bear Creek Lake State Park

Mr. Munson presented the summary for Bear Creek Lake State Park.

The adopted master plan for Bear Creek Lake State Park was signed on December 6, 2002. Since adoption of the plan, the meeting facility, YCC Bunkhouse and 13 cabins with access roads have been constructed. The park is now connected to county water and sewer service, which has led to the disconnection of existing wells, storage tanks, and sand sewage filters. Bear Creek Lake State Park and the Department of Forestry also have a working agreement in place to enforce a no-hunting buffer on the park's border. During the review of the master plan, several changes were recommended.

After carefully evaluating site conditions and traffic flow within the park, it was recommended that the proposed visitor center site be changed from an area near the park entrance to the day-use area of the park. This location will be closer to the majority of park users; parking opportunities will be included.

The site chosen for the visitor center overlaps the archery range, so the latter would be relocated to a new location near the park entrance. This site provides space for a good safety buffer around the range.

The current location of the contact station is not functioning well now that the cabin area is on the other side of the lake. It is proposed that the contact station be relocated to near the park entrance.

With addition of the new cabins, another ranger residence will be needed, and it has been added near the cabin area. All other proposed projects, in the adopted master plan will remain as set forth in the original plan.

On March 12, 2009, a public input meeting was held at Bear Creek Lake State Park to inform the public about the proposed changes to the master plan and to gauge public sentiment toward the changes. The meeting was well attended, and the proposed revisions as presented were supported by those in attendance. Mr. Munson said that based on the outcome of the public meeting, DCR recommended that the Master Plan for Bear Creek Lake State Park be amended as follows:

- Construct the visitor center and its parking lot in the day-use area.
- Relocate the archery range to a location near the park entrance.
- Relocate the contact station to the intersection of Route 629 and Bear Creek Road.
- Construct a new ranger residence near the cabin area.
- Renovate the concession area and beach bathhouse.
- Construct an accessible trail from the meeting facility to the beach and across the beachfront.

Mr. Munson said that, in accordance with § 10.1-200.1 et seq, staff recommended the adoption of these amendments.

Mr. Watts asked if there were problems with providing staff housing within the boundaries of the park. He noted that the National Park Service moved away from this practice.

Mr. Elton said that the approach the Commonwealth has taken was to house staff within the boundaries of the park. He said this typically means law enforcement staff, which would include managers, assistant managers and chief rangers.

Mr. Elton said that DCR has found this to be the best approach.

MOTION: Mr. Formato moved that the Board of Conservation and Recreation recommend approval of the Master Plan Amendment for Bear Creek State Park as presented by staff.

SECOND: Ms. Crandell

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

Southwest Virginia Museum State Park

Mr. Munson presented the summary for Southwest Virginia Museum State Park. He noted that this was not an amendment but a new master plan for the park. He noted that SW Virginia Museum is not a traditional state park.

The Southwest Virginia Museum has not had a formal master plan similar to the other parks due to its unique nature. Various plans for the Museum have historically directed management and operations of the museum buildings, grounds, collections, and exhibits. This is the first time a formal plan has been submitted.

Southwest Virginia Museum is located in the Town of Big Stone Gap in Wise County. The Southwest Virginia Museum is housed in the mansion originally built by Rufus Ayers. The house was constructed over a seven-year period, beginning in 1888, and being completed in 1895. C. Bascom Slep purchased the house in 1929. C. Bascom and his sister, Janie Slep Newman, had a love of Southwest Virginia, its people, history, and rich culture. They collected artifacts depicting life in the area; these were originally displayed in the Janie Slep Newman Museum. Before C. Bascom's death in 1943, he established the Slep Foundation. It was his wish to create a state museum depicting Southwest Virginia's history and culture. The Slep Foundation has been a major supporter and funder of the Museum since its inception.

The mansion is located on West First Street in Big Stone Gap. Situated in the center of the property, the 11,215 square foot mansion contains exhibits telling the story of the exploration and development of Southwest Virginia. The museum was officially dedicated by the state in 1948 and is listed as a Virginia Landmark and National Historic Place. The Museum offers programs and tours in order to inform the public about the history of Big Stone Gap and those who settled in the area.

In addition to education, the mansion and staff offer various other services. A multi-purpose room in the basement is available for community use. It accommodates between 30-70 people, depending on the use of tables and chairs. The museum gift shop is located on the ground floor and offers souvenirs and merchandise for purchase.

The Carriage House is located in the west corner of the property. The 2,259 square foot building is presently used to store the museum's collections that are not on display.

Three storage buildings are located behind the museum on the southwest portion of the property. They hold tools and equipment necessary for upkeep of the grounds and buildings. Two of the buildings are 96 square feet in size, and the third is 144 square feet.

The Park Manager's residence is located diagonally across from the Museum at 9 West First Street North. Owned by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the 2,249 square-foot house serves as a residence for the manager of the museum. There is an additional 160 square-foot storage shed located near the Park Manager's residence.

The Park Administrative Offices are located across the street from the Museum, as is the three-bedroom Poplar Hill Cottage, which is available for rent. A maintenance building is also located on the southern corner of this property.

A recently acquired vacant lot completes the museum's properties. It is hoped that this site can accommodate future collections storage and maintenance buildings.

The master plan for the museum recommends improvements to the physical plant as well as the relationship of the museum to the community. It addresses deficiencies noted in ADA compliance, public restroom needs, safety, visitor services, parking, and the need for collection storage and maintenance facilities. The following improvements are recommended:

- Acquire nearby properties that would enhance museum.
- Construct a collections storage facility on new lot.
- Construct a maintenance building on the new lot.
- Install exterior lighting around museum buildings.
- Convert downstairs of Carriage House to Galleries/Workspace.
- Acquire land for additional parking.
- Improve accessibility, specifically:
 - a. Install ADA lift in the Museum
 - b. Install ADA lift in research/archive space
 - c. Add three ADA Parking Spaces.
 - d. Construct an exterior comfort station
 - e. Construct an accessible pathway

A public input meeting was held at the Southwest Virginia Museum on April 14, 2009. The meeting was well attended and the public accepted the recommended master plan for the museum.

Mr. Munson said that, in accordance with § 10.1-200.1 et seq., DCR was requesting that the Board recommend adoption of the master plan.

Mr. Elton noted that Big Stone Gap has a total of five museums and that the Southwest Virginia Museum was part of a museum tour.

Ms. Wagner said that the museum was not a typical Southwest Virginia residence and noted that the collection has a lot of European influence.

Ms. Swinson asked if the town was interested in developing trails.

Mr. Munson said that Big Stone Gap has an amphitheater and a community arts facility and is doing a good job of promoting these resources.

MOTION: Mr. Formato moved that the Board of Conservation and Recreation recommend approval of the Master Plan for Southwest Virginia Museum Historical State Park as presented by staff.

SECOND: Ms. Wagner

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

Wilderness Road State Park

Mr. Munson presented the summary for Wilderness Road State Park.

The master plan for Wilderness Road State Park was adopted on December 14, 1998. A Master Plan Amendment was approved on March 22, 2002. Since 2002, many elements of the original Master Plan have been developed including the following:

- Karlan Mansion and garden renovation
- Access road and parking areas
- Ranger residence
- Visitor center and parking
- Pioneer village demonstration area
- Historic Martin's Station
- Maintenance area construction.
- Comfort station in day-use area.
- Playground.

- Lester Serva and Oliver Lee Cabins
- Group camp
- 11 miles of the Wilderness Road Trail.

In reviewing the master plan with State park staff during the five-year review, it was apparent that some changes to the master plan need to be made. However, DCR is currently in the process of acquiring an adjacent property that will expand the park's capacity to meet identified needs. Until such time as the new property is acquired and a detailed site analysis can be undertaken, DCR recommends that the current master plan be adopted as shown in its updated format.

After the land acquisition has been completed, a new plan will be developed.

In accordance with § 10.1-200.1 et seq. staff requested that the Board recommend adoption of these amendments.

Mr. Smith clarified that the request was to renew the existing plan and that staff would come back to the Board with a revised Master Plan.

Mr. Formato asked the acquisition cost for the adjacent property.

Mr. Maroon noted that the property was under negotiation.

Mr. Elton said that the intent is to protect as much as possible on the top of Cumberland Mountain so that the viewshed will be similar to what it was when Daniel Boone stood on that land with Joseph Martin. He said that the land does appraise at a higher value than one might think.

MOTION: Ms. Swinson moved that the Board of Conservation and Recreation recommend that the Master Plan Amendments for Wilderness Road State Park be approved as presented by staff.

SECOND: Ms. Wagner

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

At this time the Board recessed for lunch.

Following lunch Mr. Munson continued with the Master Plan presentations.

Natural Tunnel State Park

Mr. Munson presented the summary for Natural Tunnel State Park.

The master plan for Natural Tunnel State Park was adopted on May 16, 2000. Since adoption of the 2000 plan, several land acquisitions have been completed, including property along Stock Creek. Some buildings on the purchased property have been converted for use as an interpretive center/housing facility and a barn that provides storage and program support. Since the last plan was formulated, several projects have been completed. The following adjustments and additions were being proposed to the adopted master plan:

- Adjacent land that has been identified as being crucial to protect the park setting and the viewshed were mapped. An effort should be made to protect the open, undeveloped nature of these lands either through fee-simple acquisition or the use of conservation easements.
- Overhead utilities within the park should be placed underground.
- The park office should be replaced with a new, larger office. The park office site should be relocated in order to better handle camper and cabin guest registrations and administer the park more efficiently.
- The access trail to Bowling Cave should be upgraded.
- The maintenance/operations building should be relocated.
- The water storage building should be converted to a camp store.
- A group camp should be constructed.
- Additional trails should be constructed, including one to connect the Cove Ridge Trail to the National Forest.
- A playground should be added to the overnight area.
- Seating at the amphitheater should be expanded.
- A comfort station should be built at the observation deck/gazebo.
- An interpretive log cabin should be added at the Wilderness Road Interpretive Area.
- A satellite canoe put-in/take-out site should be secured on the Clinch River.

A public input meeting was held on April 15, 2009 at Natural Tunnel State Park. The meeting was well attended, and the public supported the recommended changes to the master plan.

Mr. Munson said that in accordance with § 10.1-200.1 et seq., staff requested that the Board recommend adoption of these amendments.

MOTION: Mr. Wingo moved that the Board of Conservation and Recreation recommend approval of the Master Plan Amendment for Natural Tunnel State Park as recommended by staff.

SECOND: Mr. Formato

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

REVISED: 8/31/2009

Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historic State Park

Mr. Munson presented the summary for Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historic State Park.

The adopted master plan for Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historic State Park was signed on December 4, 2002. Since adoption of the plan, the structures on the former Frank Property have been removed, and a maintenance shed has been added to the property. The stabilization and renovation of the Hillsman House have been completed. Construction on the Visitor Center has begun.

There are no changes to the master plan other than to reflect the completed projects.

Mr. Munson said staff was requesting that the Board recommend adoption of these amendments to the master plan.

MOTION: Mr. Formato moved that the Board of Conservation and Recreation recommend the approval of the amendments to the master plan for Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historic State Park as presented by staff.

SECOND: Ms. Swinson

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

Hungry Mother State Park

Mr. Munson gave the summary for Hungry Mother State Park.

The master plan for Hungry Mother State Park was adopted on March 6, 2001. Since adoption of the plan, many of the recommendations have been completed. These include the acquisition of privately-owned Hungry Mother Campground, which is now called Camp Burson; renovation of that campground to meet state park standards; major upgrades to trails on the eastern side of the park; replacement of the bathhouse in Campground B; connection to the town sewage system; and the currently ongoing dredging of the upper end of the lake.

During the five-year review, staff identified several areas of the park where recommendations made in the adopted master plan should be modified. The proposed changes are as follows:

- Remove the large education center/100-room lodge from above Hemlock Haven.
- Move the group camp from Area D to the western side of Camp Burson.
- Add a foot bridge to the eastern side of the amphitheater island.

- Construct a trailhead education shelter at the start of the Warriors Path Trail.
- Retain Campground A and renovate sites and bathhouse.
- Retain stone restroom as restroom and renovate (rather than convert to CCC museum)
- Construct a wetlands boardwalk at the Environmental Education Area.
- Move some park offices to the Camp Burson administrative building.
- Complete projects at Camp Burson to include
 - Addition of a playground
 - Addition of a coin-operated laundry
 - Moving the Office.
 - Construction of a new bathhouse, and
 - Addition of four or five camping cabins.

On April 13, 2009, a public input meeting was held at Hungry Mother State Park. It was well attended, and the public accepted the changes being recommended in the revised master plan.

Mr. Munson said that in accordance with § 10.1-200.1 et seq. the staff request was that the Board approve the Master Plan Amendments.

Mr. Watts asked who maintained the reservoir.

Mr. Munson noted that DCR maintains the reservoir. He noted that the lake level was set by the spillway height.

Mr. Watts asked how many hotels DCR managed.

Mr. Maroon noted that the lodge was being taken out of the plan.

Mr. Elton said that DCR was in the process of renovating the old Foster Falls Hotel and would end up with 12 rooms.

Mr. Elton said that the dredging project on the lake was behind schedule and that the park is running the risk of not having the lake back at the full level by Memorial Day weekend.

MOTION: Mr. Formato moved that the Board of Conservation and Recreation recommend approval of the Amendments to the Master Plan for Hungry Mother State Park as presented by staff.

SECOND: Ms. Wagner

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

Recreational Access Road Request

Ms. Waymack said that it was the responsibility of the Board to recommend that the Commonwealth Transportation Fund allocate funds for recreational access roads.

Ms. Waymack said that the project in Campbell County was asking for a grant of \$425,000 with \$350,000 for construction of a recreational access road and \$75,000 for the development of a biking/pedestrian facility along the side of the road. She said that funding for the park was approved through the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation for 167 acres.

Mr. Maroon said that the action by the Board would be to certify to VDOT that the park has recreational value.

MOTION: Ms. Swinson moved that the Board of Conservation and Recreation accept the access road proposal as presented by staff and recommend to the Director of DCR that action be taken to allow the Commonwealth Transportation Board to provide Recreational Access Road Funds for English Park in Campbell County.

SECOND: Mr. Wingo

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

Legislative and Budget Update

Mr. Maroon presented the legislative and budget update outlining the General Assembly actions as well as an update regarding economic stimulus money. Copies of both reports are available from DCR.

Mr. Maroon said that final cuts for DCR for 2009-2010 were a little over 10%. He said that the agency lost 13 positions, 15 wage positions and 50 or so seasonal staff.

State Parks Report

Mr. Elton gave a brief overview of a presentation entitled "Turn Over Every Rock." He said that it was a recognition that in difficult times, staff need to be creative in approaching issues.

Mr. Elton said that state parks staff are entering creative partnerships to better serve the people of Virginia. He reviewed a number of projects and programs that State Parks have developed. A copy of Mr. Elton's full presentation is available from DCR.

Fund Raising Role

Mr. Smith said that in the past year the Board had worked to develop a plan for raising money for exhibit centers. He said that to continue that work he wanted to formalize the Ad Hoc Committee. He appointed Ms. Swinson to chair the committee. Committee members include Mr. Murray, Mr. Watts, Ms. Crandell and Mr. Wingo.

Mr. Smith said that he would like the Board to pursue a five-year fund raising plan that would bridge administrations. He said he would like the subcommittee to discuss the issue and make recommendations.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Other Business

Mr. Formato shared information about a project teaching wounded soldiers to fly fish. He said that he had submitted footage to Fox Sports and now has been asked to produce 10 episodes beginning in July.

Next Meeting

It was determined that staff would poll Board members for available meeting dates in August and November.

Adjourn

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark E. Smith
Chairman

Joseph H. Maroon
Director